which I have already referred elsewhere. The new Directorate became responsible for supplying agriculturists with labour, machinery and fertilisers, and for exercising the powers of control conferred by regulations under the Defence of the Realm Act to ensure the maximum production of food.

When his appointment was under consideration, it seemed to me that a lunch at Downing Street would be a suitable occasion to discuss the food problem with him and Prothero. As a result of our talk, Lee worked out his ideas in the form of a memorandum which was carefully considered by the Board of Agriculture, and *memorandum* in substance adopted by them. The resulting document was presented to me by Prothero on I4th February, and considered by the War Cabinet on the same afternoon. Its recommendations formed the basis of our food production policy for the remainder of the War.

After considerable discussion the War Cabinet decided to ensure the co-operation of the farming community by adopting a bold policy of ^ice*T*^ guaranteeing minimum prices for wheat, *approved* oats and potatoes. The scales adopted were :—

For Wheat:

per quarter of 504 lb. 6os. in 1917
553. in 1918 and 1919

		453, in 1920-21-22
For Oats: per quarter of 336 lb.	38s. 6d, in 1917	
	323. od. in 1918 and 1919	
	243. od. in 1920-21-22	
For Potatoes : per ton	£6	os, od. in 1917
	£4	los. od. in 1918 and 1919